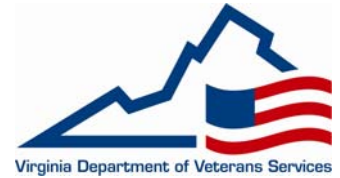


The Virginia Department of Veterans Services



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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 7, 2008

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Veterans to receive honorary high school diplomas

ACCOMACK—"Never thought I'd see the day I would have a high school diploma," said Eugene Smith of Onancock, Virginia. Vietnam veterans, James M. Hunter Jr. and Anthony Mundy are not letting a little distance stop them from getting their diplomas. They plan to make the trip from New Haven, Connecticut to the Eastern Shore to receive their diplomas. Smith, Hunter, and Mundy will be among other veterans who will receive high school diplomas at a graduation ceremony at Nandua High School in Onley, Virginia on August 16, at 7:00 p.m.

The Honorary High School Diplomas are awarded to veterans in recognition of their life experiences. The veterans participating in the August 16 ceremony were unable to complete their high school education because of service in the armed forces during World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War. More than 1,000 honorary diplomas have been awarded to veterans since the first ones were issued in Virginia in 2001.

U. S. Congresswoman Thelma Drake will serve as the keynote speaker for the graduation ceremony. Other speakers include Delegate Lynwood Lewis, Senator Ralph Northam, and Vince Burgess, Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Veterans Services. In addition to the diploma, each veteran will receive a commendation certificate issued by the Virginia House of Delegates.

The Virginia Department of Veterans Services and the Virginia Employment Commission are hosting the event. The public is invited to attend.

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Serving those who served.